

not to say, "Good work—and how can we help?" Rather, it was to scream about a "domestic spying" scandal, as though Richard Nixon were back in the White House and tapping the telephone of Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean.

And the reaction has been much the same to USA Today's story last week that the NSA "has been secretly collecting the phone call records of tens of millions of Americans" in a program that "reaches into the homes and businesses across the nation by amassing information about the calls of ordinary Americans."

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee, reacted by asserting that "these are tens of millions of Americans who are not suspected of anything but we're just going to collect their phone information for the heck of it. Where does it stop?"

Similarly, Newsweek's cover this week blames "Spying On Your Calls"—no question mark used—and implies that the Bush White House could be tapping everyone's telephones.

In fact, what seems to be happening, though the details are secret, is that most long-distance phone companies have given the NSA their billing records identifying what numbers are calling what other numbers, when and for how long. Names are not included. And the NSA—not for the heck of it but to protect us from attack—is using the records to track terrorist networks and calling patterns. If a known terrorist in Pakistan calls a number in Los Angeles, I want the government to know what numbers that person calls. Don't you?

Certainly, the government will find out the names of people in a terrorist calling chain. If it wants to tap a domestic phone, it needs a warrant and, unless officials are lying through their teeth, it is asking for them.

The NSA call logs also apparently are being mined to establish patterns of terrorist-related communication—the use of pay phones, duration of calls, times of communication, etc.

But all this scarcely constitutes "reaching into homes and businesses across the nation." If the government is snooping into the business of anyone except terrorists (or drug dealers, Mafiosi and child pornographers, whose names and numbers also can be easily obtained with a subpoena), it is wasting its time and our money.

The phone companies that are cooperating with the government ought to be congratulated for participating in the war on terrorism—as they would have been in WWII. Instead, they are being hauled before the Senate Judiciary Committee as though they were criminals. And trial lawyers are circling like vultures to make them pay zillions for alleged privacy violations.

As for myself, I'm sticking with AT&T as a long-distance carrier because (according to news reports), it did cooperate. If I had Qwest, which reportedly refused, I'd cancel.

Is there a potential for abuse in the NSA spying program? There is. For instance, it would be all too easy for officials to ask the NSA to trace the phone records of the winners of those odious Pulitzers—James Risen of The New York Times and Dana Priest of The Washington Post—in an effort to uncover their sources in the name of "protecting secrets" and "fighting terrorism."

The Senate Intelligence Committee, when it quizzes former NSA Director Michael Hayden in his CIA confirmation hearings Friday, should establish that the terrorist surveillance programs have not been abused, although there is no evidence of it.

To the extent he can do so without giving away secrets, Hayden also should tell the committee and the country why these pro-

grams are so essential and what the legal basis for them is.

If the administration believes, as officials often have said, that the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is obsolete in the age of super-computers and terrorism, it ought to work with Congress to rewrite the law. Skirting it won't work anymore.

But the fundamental problem infecting much of Congress, the media and the political class especially those, left of center—is that they are consumed with loathing for President Bush and all his works and are prepared to do anything to undermine him, even if it makes the country less safe.

Yes, Republicans tried to destroy former President Bill Clinton over sex and politics. But now Democrats what to destroy Bush so badly that they are willing to undercut national security.

Everyone in Congress (and the CIA) should see the movie "United 93" as a reminder of what we are up against, Muslim fanatics will not only try to destroy the Capitol, but also explode a nuclear bomb, if they can.

And, people also should heed the warning delivered by Princeton University professor Bernard Lewis, one of the nation's foremost scholars of Islam, before the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life here last month.

Lewis, now 90, cast the struggle with Islamic extremism in WWII terms—it is 1938, he said, and "we seem to be more in the mode of Chamberlain at Munich rather than of Churchill."

Osama bin Laden and other would-be Hitlers, he said, consider the United States "an effete, degenerate, pampered enemy incapable of real resistance." It's part of the pattern that we fight among ourselves as much as against our enemies. This is more than serious. It's dire.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. WALLY HERGER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Chairman, it's time for Congress to start making tough choices. Projected growth in mandatory spending threatens to crowd out all other spending and choke our economy unless we act now. Over the next 75 years, Medicare's unfunded liabilities amount to a staggering \$30 trillion—more than 5 times as much as Social Security's. We're on a fiscal path that we simply cannot sustain, presenting our children and grandchildren with a legacy of enormous debt or stifling tax increases.

There are difficult decisions that have to be made, but we must be responsible, tighten our belts, and live within our means. I applaud the RSC for its work on this budget alternative, and urge its passage.

#### HONORING THE 16TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 18, 2006*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day Weekend, May 26–29, is the 16th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC.

DC Black Pride is an exciting 4-day event complete with dynamic workshops, receptions, cultural arts activities, small and large nightclub events that culminates in the world's largest Black Pride Festival at Metro Center, on the site of Washington, DC's former Convention Center. Many consider DC's Festival one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations. The Festival consistently draws more than 30,000 people to the Nation's Capital. Attendees come from every major urban area in the United States as well as from Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Caribbean and South Africa. The Black Pride Festival features activities for the entire family including performances by national recording artists, 200 exhibition booths, book signings from noted writers, participation from national and local health organizations, and arts and crafts.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD), the celebration's organizing body, chose the theme "Fire 2006" to encourage the Black Lesbian Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) people to "get fired up" about their health and wellness, to strengthen the Black LGBT Community, and to encourage Black LGBT people to live their lives with pride.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., a nonprofit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors coordinates this annual event. BLGPD's 2006 Board consists of Clarence J. Fluker, President; James Hawkins, Vice President; Janisha Gabriel, Secretary; Lisa Washington, Treasurer; the following Members at Large: Ramon Gardenhire, Shanika Whitehurst, Sterling Washington, Ray Daniels, Donovan Anderson, Courtney Snowden; and these Members Emeritus: Earl Fowlkes, Eric E. Richardson, and Cheryl Dunn who lead BLGPD in its mission to build knowledge of and to create greater pride in the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community's diversity while raising funds to ameliorate and prevent health problems, especially HIV/AIDS, in this community.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 16th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States Citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under